

Mill Creek, Ohio, Flood Damage Reduction Project Section 3

Local Sponsor: Millcreek Valley Conservancy District

Mill Creek, Ohio, Section 3 is part of a flood damage reduction project that is composed of a 17 and-a-half-mile stretch of Mill Creek and about three-quarters of a mile of the East Fork in Hamilton County.

The Section 3 construction site comprises about 2,500 feet of Mill Creek south of Mitchell Avenue near Salway Park in Cincinnati. Section 3 was built by the Corps between 1982 and 1984. The current work will stabilize the stream banks using rock and vegetation.

The Corps and the Millcreek Valley Conservancy District have worked with the Mill Creek Restoration Project, the Mill Creek Watershed Council and other environmental agencies to balance the needs and desires of all stakeholders. The three main design objectives of the project are: continuation of the flood damage reduction benefit provided by the original channel; provide an operable and maintainable project for the sponsor; and, include environmental enhancements.

To further ensure all alternatives had been carefully considered, a value engineering study was conducted to evaluate adding features such as pools and riffles in the stream, and a wider range of vegetation species, types, spacing, configurations and sizes.

The current work includes a maintenance road of interlocking articulated blocks along the right bank. An access surface is necessary to maintain riprap at the toe of the slope, to remove silt and debris from the channel bottom, perform future stabilization and erosion control if necessary and repair or replace deteriorated outlet structures. Performing maintenance work in Mill Creek from the top of the right bank cannot be done safely and economically. The road will be used infrequently by the local sponsor for inspection and maintenance, and it will be practically invisible once vegetation grows up through the holes in the articulated blocks.

Landscaping and ecological components of this work include planting trees, shrubs, grasses and other native vegetation. Since this is a flood control channel, there are limitations to the amount of vegetation that can be used without diminishing the project's ability to reduce flooding.

Section 3 is scheduled for completion in spring, 2004. The contractor will monitor and maintain the live plantings for a full year before the project is turned over to the sponsor.

The cost of the Mill Creek Section 3 repair and restoration is \$2.15 million.